

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
for the  
***RAINBOW RECREATION SITE TOILET REPLACEMENT***  
(EA #OR110-2001-30)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MEDFORD DISTRICT  
GRANTS PASS RESOURCE AREA

*May 2001*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MEDFORD DISTRICT

EA COVER SHEET

RESOURCE AREA: Grants Pass

EA Number OR-110-2001-30

ACTION/TITLE: Rainbow Recreation Site Toilet Replacement

LOCATION: Rainbow Recreation Site: T35S,R7W, SW1/4,SE1/4, Sec.5, WM

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GRANTS PASS RESOURCE AREA  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**RAINBOW RECREATION SITE TOILET REPLACEMENT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
<b>Chapter 1</b>	
<b>Purpose and Need for Action and Alternatives</b> .....	1
A.    Introduction and Need for the Proposal .....	1
B.    Project Location(s) .....	1
C.    Scoping Issues Relevant to the Proposal .....	2
D.    Proposed Action and/or Alternatives .....	2
<b>Chapter 2</b>	
Environmental Consequences .....	3
A.    Introduction .....	3
B.    Site Specific and Cumulative Beneficial or Adverse Effects of the Alternatives .....	3
<b>Chapter 3</b>	
Agencies and Persons Consulted .....	5
A.    Public Involvement .....	5
B.    Agencies consulted .....	5
C.    Availability of Document and Comment Procedures .....	5

## **Chapter 1**

### **Purpose and Need for Action and Alternatives**

#### **A. Introduction and Need for the Proposal**

##### **1. Introduction**

The purpose of this environmental assessment (EA) is to assist in the decision-making process by assessing the environmental and human affects resulting from implementing the proposed project and/or alternatives. The EA will also assist in determining if an environmental impact statement (EIS) needs to be prepared or if a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is appropriate.

This EA tiers to: (1) the Final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) dated June 1995 for the Medford District Resource Management Plan dated October 1994; (2) the Final Supplemental EIS on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl dated February 1994; (3) the Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and its Attachment A entitled the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl dated April 13, 1994; (4) Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines dated January 2001.

This proposal is also based on, and consistent with, the following river management plans: (1) The current operating Activity Plan for the Hellgate Recreation Section “Rogue National Wild & Scenic River” dated November 1978; (2) The “Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan” dated June 1995; and (3) The “Hellgate Recreation Area Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement” dated November 2000.

##### **2. Purpose and Need for the Proposal**

The only toilet currently at the Rainbow Recreation site is a culvert lined pit toilet with a wooden building. It is frequently vandalized. The wood floor is prone to rot and requires replacement about every 5 years. The pit allows sewage to leach into ground water. The current toilet structure is not universally accessible.

The purpose of the proposed action is to replace the pit toilet with a vault type toilet that is vandal resistant, universally accessible, and of a design similar to toilet facilities at other BLM and County facilities along the Recreation Section of the Rogue River.

#### **B. Project Location(s)**

The project is within the Recreational Section of the Rogue Wild and Scenic River corridor at the Rainbow Recreation Site (see attached map): T35S, R76W, Sec5, SW1/4SE1/4.

#### **C. Scoping Issues Relevant to the Proposal**

Several issues were raised by the BLM's interdisciplinary planning team during project planning:

1. Need for compatibility of the toilet design and installation with the existing character of the recreation site.
2. Need for a design that is consistent with the VRM objectives and that is vandal resistant.
3. Universal accessibility to the facility is a legal requirement.
4. The Rainbow Recreation site is within the 100 year flood zone. (see Map)

**D. Proposed Action and/or Alternatives**

1. Alternative 1: No Action

The no action alternative would retain the current pit toilet facility in its current location.

2. Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The proposed action is to replace the pit toilet with a CXT Gunison vault toilet. The toilet would be located at the same location as the current toilet. The design and earth tone color is similar to vault toilets at other BLM and County recreation sites in the Recreation Section of the Rogue River. The design is vandal resistant and universally accessible. The entire toilet unit is constructed of concrete to withstand pressures from flooding. (See the attached photograph and computer simulation showing site and facility)

Prior to installation, any sludge in the existing pit would be pumped out and then the existing culvert liner would be pulled out. The installation of the vault will require excavating a 5' deep X 6' wide X 15' long hole with a backhoe. These dimensions exceed the existing pit size. Excavated soil will be used to partially fill in the current pit and to fill one side of the new vault to anchor the tank. Any excess soil would be removed from the site. A short concrete path will be poured to provide smooth access from the gravel parking lot (see attached map). A cultural resources technician would be present during excavation.

Barrier posts will be installed to guard against vandalism from vehicles.

The toilet site is within the 100 year flood plain. A variance permit for the new facility will be required and obtained from the Oregon DEQ prior to construction. This will also necessitate annual pre-winter maintenance: pumping, sanitizing and closing the toilet during the winter season.

## **Chapter 2**

### **Environmental Consequences**

#### **A. Introduction**

Only substantive site specific environmental changes that would result from implementing the proposed action or alternatives are discussed in this chapter. If an ecological component is not discussed, it should be assumed that the resource specialists have considered affects to that component and found the proposed action or alternatives would have minimal or no affects. Similarly, unless addressed specifically the following were found not to be affected by the proposed action or alternatives: air quality; areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC); cultural or historical resources; Native American religious sites; prime or unique farmlands; flood plains; endangered, threatened or sensitive plant, animal or fish species; water quality; wetlands/riparian zones; wild and scenic rivers; and wilderness areas.

#### **B. Site Specific and Cumulative Beneficial or Adverse Effects of the Alternatives**

##### **1. Resource: Soils and Water**

###### **a. Alternative 1: No Action**

The existing pit privy would continue to contaminate alluvium and ground water. The ground water contamination occurs when the water table rises to a high enough point to come in contact with privy effluent that seeps through voids in the alluvium.

###### **b. Alternative 2: Proposed Action**

The vault privy concrete walls will separate sewage effluent from alluvium and ground water. There would be no further contamination.

##### **2. Resource: Wildlife**

There are no anticipated impacts on T&E or S&M wildlife species

##### **3. Resource: Fish**

No effects to fisheries or aquatic resources are anticipated from the proposed action. This determination includes short and long term, direct and indirect, and cumulative effects. Impacts have been considered temporally on the short term and long term scales, and spatially at the project/site and watershed scales.

There is no effect on coho salmon or coho critical habitat from the proposed action.

4. Resource: Botany

The project site is a highly disturbed and compacted site. It does not provide habitat suitable for special status species.

5. Resource: Cultural

There are no anticipated impacts to any cultural sites or features.

6. Resource: Recreation and VRM

a. Alternative 1: No Action

The existing facility would continue to not be fully accessible. It would continue to need frequent maintenance.

b. Alternative 2: Proposed Action

The new structure would be fully accessible, providing use for all levels of accessibility. The structure will not be visible from the river or road (the main travel routes through the area). Short term impacts at the site would be visible for a short time due to the excavation but would revegetate in 1-2 seasons. Potential long term visual impacts would be minimal, as the structure will fit in with the site, use neutral colors, be an aesthetically pleasing design that is consistent with the toilet facilities design in other recreation sites along the river.

The proposed action is consistent with objectives for the “Roaded Natural” class (structures are visually subordinate, generally scattered) of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Inventory for the Recreation Section of the Rogue River (BLM, Medford District, April 1992).

### **Chapter 3**

#### **Agencies and Persons Consulted**

##### **A. Public Involvement**

A 15 day formal public comment period will be held.

##### **B. Agencies consulted**

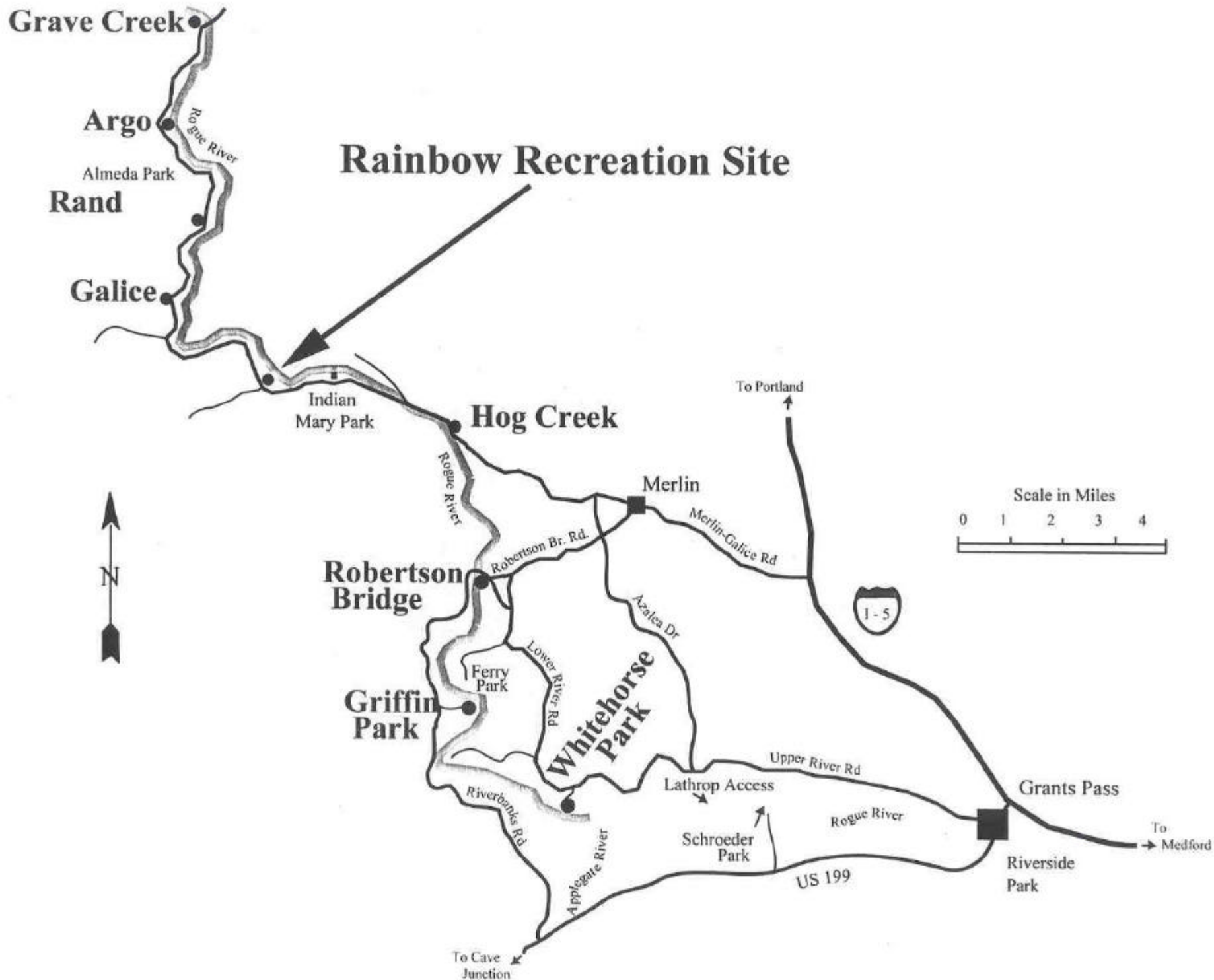
This project proposal has been discussed with and reviewed by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). A variance permit for the new facility will be obtained prior to construction.

The project has been discussed with Josephine County Planning Department (Flood plain Map), Josephine County Parks Department and the Division of State Lands.

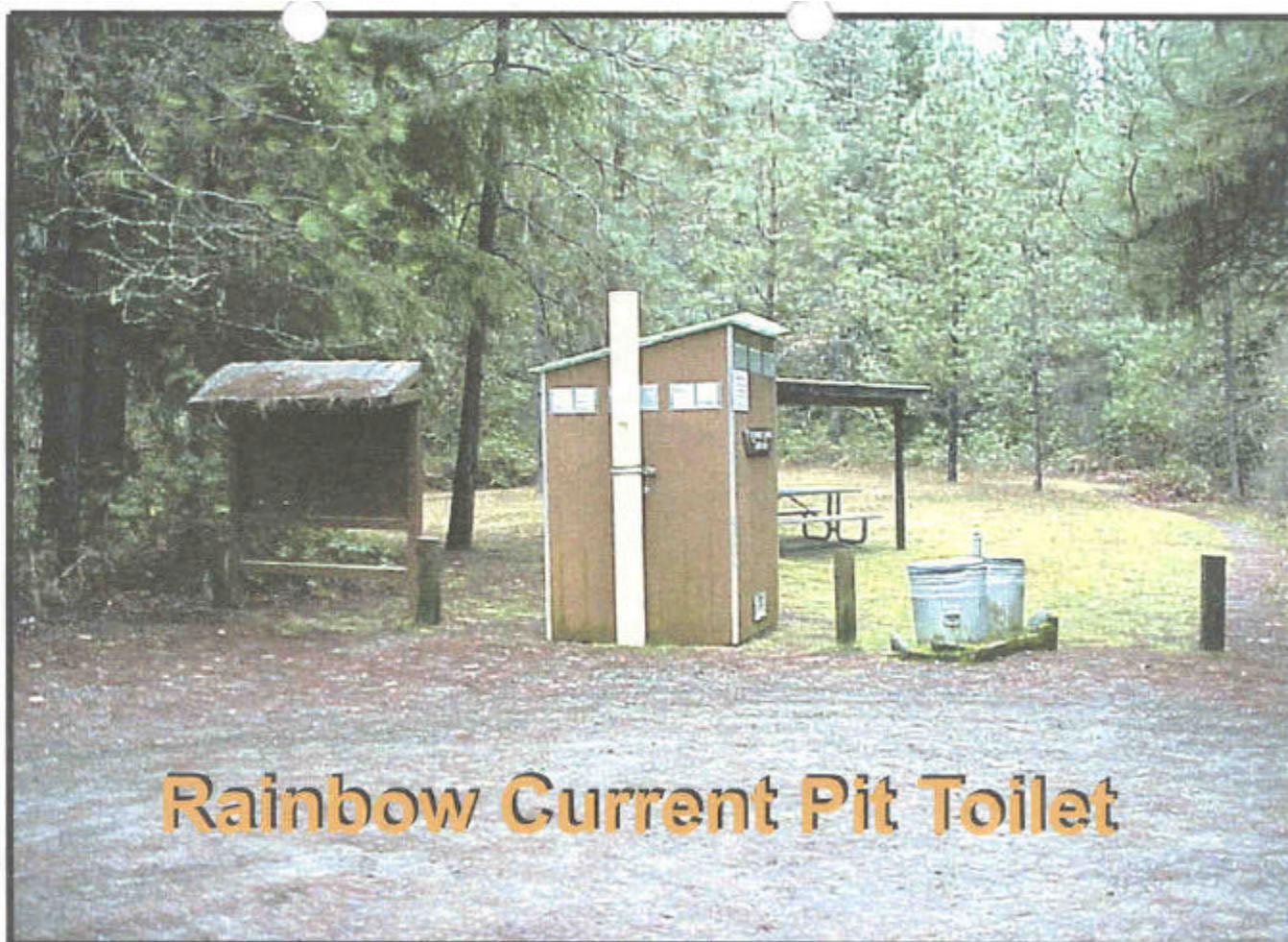
##### **C. Availability of Document and Comment Procedures**

Copies of the EA document will be available for public review in the BLM Medford District Office and on the Medford District's internet site ([www.or.blm.gov/Medford](http://www.or.blm.gov/Medford)). Comments can be sent to the BLM (3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504) or may be e-mailed to [or110mb@or.blm.gov](mailto:or110mb@or.blm.gov).









**Rainbow Current Pit Toilet**



**Rainbow Proposed View**